

## Miscellaneous

### ANALYSIS OF A PATENT MEDICINE

The following notes are made from the column of "The Propaganda for Reform" of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, regarding the nostrum "Raz-Mah," which is advertised both in the United States and in Canada, as a treatment for hay-fever and asthma.

Reports had been received from various parts of the continent asking for information as to the composition of Raz-Mah, as it evidently contained drugs of some potency. Two separate reports had already been made, one by the Department of Health at Ottawa, and the other by the A.M.A. Chemical Laboratory, which showed that each "Raz-Mah" capsule contained little more than aspirin, caffeine, and charcoal. In September, 1924, however, an even more complete laboratory analysis of the substance was made, and it was found that while samples differed somewhat in composition, the powder was essentially a mixture of caffeine, aspirin and an iodide. In one sample, oil of spearmint replaced the iodide, and it is suggested that the latter was probably accidental, and that the varying composition may be due to careless methods employed by the nostrum manufacturers, or, perhaps, may indicate that for reasons best known to themselves the exploiters of "Raz-Mah" have seen fit to change the formula.

In any case, it has been quite sufficiently proved that the nostrum contains little more than powdered aspirin and caffeine, but as the proportions of these in each capsule are four grains and half a grain respectively, it can be seen that the maximum daily dose recommended of eight capsules might easily be productive of untoward effects.

### NOTES ON ORGANIZATION OF BANTING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

We have received the following details in regard to the organization of the Banting Research Foundation in Toronto, which has been established with a view to discovering means for the prevention and also for the cure of diseases at present regarded as incurable.

This Foundation is a corporate body separate

from the University of Toronto, it being pointed out that the funds of the university, which are supported by the province, are distinctly for the purpose of training students and developing the members of its staff. The university has no means available with which to investigate problems brought to it by independent workers or to aid workers in other universities or colleges.

It is thought that the income from \$500,000 will suffice for the support of the Foundation for some years to come, and it is proposed to make the funds available to aid medical men who have reasonable problems, either working independently or in any other university in Canada.

As regards control of the Fund the endowment will be invested under the direction of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto who will act as trustees, and who will pay over to the governing body of the Foundation the annual income from the endowment for disbursement. The present Board of Foundation consists of Sir Robert Falconer, Lieut.-Col., R. W. Leonard, Rev. Canon H. J. Cody, O. S. Macdonald, W. E. Gallie, M.D., Professor J. G. Fitzgerald, Professor V. E. Henderson and John W. Rogers.

For the work of the Foundation space is available in the laboratories of the University of Toronto and also in some of the other Canadian universities.

Neither Dr. Banting nor Dr. Best will receive anything from this Foundation. Both Dr. Banting and Dr. Best have renounced all rights to any income from royalties or patent rights from the sale of insulin.

A lay-committee headed by the Right Hon. Sir Wm. Mulock has been formed to raise the necessary funds. The executive of this committee consists of Mr. E. R. Wood, Chairman; Mr. E. R. C. Clarkson, Hon. Treas.; T. G. McConkey, J. E. Atkinson, Col. G. F. McFarland, C. S. MacDonald and H. Sculley. The response to the appeal has so far been most encouraging.

### INTER-STATE POST-GRADUATE ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

We have received a copy of the programme for the Inter-State Post-Graduate Assembly of